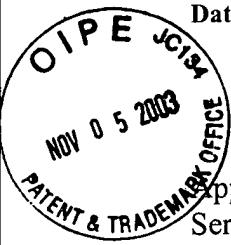


11-06-03

Express Mail Label No.: EV231274478US  
Date of Deposit: November 5, 2003

Attorney Docket No. 17549-139



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Thomas C. Prentice et al.  
Serial No.: 10/688,756  
Filed: October 17, 2003  
For: DISPENSING SYSTEM AND METHOD  
Examiner: Not Yet Assigned  
Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

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**Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**TRANSMITTAL LETTER**

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing in the present application are the following documents:

Preliminary Amendment; and  
 Return Postcard.

If the enclosed papers are considered incomplete, the Mail Room is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned collect at (617) 542-6000, Boston, Massachusetts.

Although applicant believes no fees are due with this filing in connection with this submission, the Commissioner is authorized to credit any overpayment or charge any deficiencies to the undersigned's account, Deposit Account No. 50-0311, Ref. No. 17549-139 CON. A duplicate copy of this transmittal letter is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison L. McCarthy, Esq. (Reg. No. 51,998)  
MINTZ, LEVIN, COHN, FERRIS  
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One Financial Center  
Boston, MA 02111  
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Attorneys for Applicants  
**Customer No. 30623**

Date: November 5, 2003

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**Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Applicants request that the application be amended as follows before examination:

**Amendments to the Specification** are found on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 7 of this paper.